



OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

GOLDEN SCARS

Vacation Bible School 2026 is over, and once more, it was a time of learning, fellowship, and community.

Special thanks go to VBS Director, Abby Matschke along with all the teachers, helpers, and students for helping to make it a wonderful week.

I was privileged to teach the adult class, and I am especially thankful to my 'students' who attended. Our nightly lessons varied in subject, but one that stood out for me was the lesson on the wilderness theme in Scripture. Time after time major figures of the Bible spent time in the wilderness, a place of hardship, temptation, and testing. Their time in the wilderness marked them with scars, both physical, emotional, and spiritual. As it is with the physical scars we carry on our bodies that tell a story of a reckless decision or an accident, all scars tell a story about our ability to endure, adapt, and grow.

From every wound there is a scar, and every scar tells a story. A story that says, 'I survived.' A scar that reminds us that through it all, we were never alone. The Lord walked with us, every step of the way. Yet we will still be tempted in the wilderness. We will be tempted to give up – but remember what Paul told the Corinthians: "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." (I Cor. 10:13)

We will be tempted to say it is too hard; God must be trying to harm us! But then remember what Joseph said when he revealed himself to his brothers, the very ones that had sold him into slavery and hardship. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20)

So be proud of your scars! Never worry about the scars that you have; they are beautiful reminders of your past. Especially embrace the scars that reveal your faith journey with Christ. The ones that show your faith in Christ. The scars that remind you that God has been with you. The scars that reveal you have been delivered, set free and healed.

Scars are not just scars, but moments trapped in time forever. The wilderness seasons of our lives are not moments to avoid, but times when we are transformed and become something new – refined and sanctified for service to Christ.

Peace, ~Pastor Richard

MEETINGS & BUILDING USE

T.O.P.S.: Tuesdays; 9:30AM; Taylor Hall

Seekers Prayer Group: Tuesdays; 11:30 AM
Adult SS Room

Our Day Out: 2nd Wednesdays; 10AM-2PM;
Branch Hall

Comfort Ministry: 2nd Saturdays; 10 AM
Sandy's Restaurant

Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:

Alternate Wednesdays until June 3, 2026

6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

OBCC Men's Meeting: 2nd Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch Hall with breakfast

3rd Thursday DWM Circle of Grace: 3rd Thursdays; 11:30AM; Taylor Hall

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM; Sandy's Restaurant



Sunday Services:

8:30 AM Branch Hall 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Sunday School:

NFH Sunday School following the 8:30 service

Andy's Sunday School at 9:30

Kids Sunday School upstairs Education Building 9:30

Nursery:

Open on Sundays: 8:15AM-12:15PM

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30AM-1:30PM



Elder's Meeting: Monday, August 31: 6PM

Community Fun Day: September 26: 11AM-4PM



Church Family: Joyce Allen, Pat and son Jimmy Allred, Michael Ayers, Mary Bates, Jeanne Bell, J.C. Biggs, Melvin Braxton, Judy Eley, Phyllis Gardner, Amy Gilliam, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jim & Anne Holland, Cheryl Johnson, Heidi McMurdo, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Barbara Nicholson, Steve Perger, Danny Pitts, Leroy Roberts, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Herak Sherazi, Mike Smith, Barbara Thiel, Ellen Waite, Devon Watson, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Karen Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's daughter), Lynda Clark (Patti Banks mother), Debbie Cook (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Declan (great-grandson of Jim & Anne Holland), Davvon Davidson (daughter of Emily Dill's friend), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Mason Ewing (grandson of Liz Ripley), Jeffrey Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's brother), Meredith Garrett (cousin of Connie Cason), David Held (Andrew Pfister's friend), Michelle Holdsworth and family (cousin of Karen Daniels), Susan Holton (friend of Liz Ripley), Jim Jegel (Diane Wright Jegel's husband), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), Mo Mangilla (neighbor of Gene &

Cheryl Johnson), Maylynn (Missy Harbour's friends granddaughter), Michael (Gene & Cheryl Johnson's friends nephew), John Morefield (Nicki Hood's godfather), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Millie Ptachick (Abby Matschke's friend's granddaughter), Sheila Rinehart, Sean (Teri Tench's grandson), Sam Umphlett (Will & Jane Hatcher's grandson), Lisa Vallandingham (Nicki Hood's mother), Brenda Walker (Chuck Walker's mother), Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), Terrell Wynne (friend of Carol & David Pitts), Earl Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Carolyn (friend of James & Pat Tabb)



AUGUST DEACONESS: Carol Sharp

AUGUST 2	Missy Harbour
ELDERS	Mel Watson
DEACONS	Maralyn Carr, Jan Smith, Jane Hatcher, Danny Pitts
AUGUST 9	Bob Herndon
ELDERS	Chuck Walker
DEACONS	Betty Boley, Jason Teagle, Anita Dasher, Amy Ferguson
AUGUST 16	Kim Riffle
ELDERS	Dianne Mongold
DEACONS	Ethel King, Dennis Cotner, Danny Kelley, Betty Bennink
AUGUST 23	Linda Williams
ELDERS	Abby Matschke
DEACONS	Mike Hebbard, Jody Hebbard John Henderson, Jerry Henderson
AUGUST 30	Hunter Creech
ELDERS	Sheila Yeatts
DEACONS	Jane Hatcher, Edie Larkin, Judy Eley, Bill Simpson



	Leader:	Greeter:
AUGUST 2	Teri Tench	Jeremy Dill
AUGUST 9	Ann Bradshaw	Patty Barker
AUGUST 16	Bob Eber	Trina Eber
AUGUST 23	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
AUGUST 30	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker



- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 Scott Boyd | 18 Macy Morse |
| 06 Ben Arney | 20 Roy Sullivan |
| 06 Eliza Morse | 21 Todd Meadows, Jr. |
| 10 Sarah Howard | 23 Kim Riffle |

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 11 Ellen Waite | 26 Tyler Watson |
| 12 Christina Jones | 28 Joyce Allen |
| 13 Madison Williams | 31 Bradley Watson |
| 15 Ryan Martin | |



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

05 Skip & Christy Jensen



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

Decorating with our 250th USA flags reminded us all of our beautiful nation and the right to be free. Many have asked about having a hymn sing-along for ODO, so I invited our number one piano player, Steve Hall to lead us in song. Everyone joined in and we all sounded pretty good! Sheila requested *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, of course Steve sang it with style and enthusiasm. We finished the morning singing the Lord's Prayer and it truly was beautiful.

Chef Sheila tickled our tummies with a delicious "Hogie" salad, chips and a scrumptious desert of a brownie, topped with whip cream and berries.

Crafty Jane helped us make beautiful 250th USA celebration magnets. Please check out our talented results. Tyler pointed out to Jane what he wanted on a special magnet for his sister-in-law, it was a lovely surprise for her.



Bingo is always fun and there are always lots of goodies and prizes. I am so grateful to all who come to help make this a special day for everyone. Next month's theme will be *Birds and Blooms*, come join us to enjoy a day out! We are so blessed.

~Marney Brickhouse, ODO Coordinator



DWM BLESSING BOXES

Please pick up a blessing box today. Blessing boxes are an above-and-beyond offering meant to be a daily reminder of the many blessings God gives us every day. Put the box in a place that it is easy to add a coin or two each day as gratitude to God for the many blessings we witness every day. Suggested places to



keep your box: on the table where you eat, beside your bed, or anywhere that it is easy to add a coin to it daily as you witness God's blessings. We will be collecting the boxes on Sunday, September 13th.



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING

Thank you, church family, for your continuous and generous support for our St. Olaf food program.

Together, we contributed 401lbs. of food and \$1,324.00 in financial gifts to bless our neighbors who face daily food shortages. In this year, marking the 250th birthday of our country, your kindness reflects the very best of who we are called to be. Disciples who care about our neighbors and live out the compassion of Christ in practical, loving ways. As a church family, we embody the spirit of service that has shaped our nation and continues to shape our daily witness.

God bless each of you for giving faithfully and for helping us honor the historic milestone, 250th birthday of our country with acts of love that truly make a difference in His will being done on earth!

Gratefully,

Jane & Will Hatcher, Andrew Pfister & Joyce Allen



OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY

The OBCC Men's group met on July 11th for their monthly breakfast meeting. Rev Bob Mongold led the meeting. Danny Kelley led the devotional period and generated a lively discussion.

The group's latest project was to grill the various meat dishes for the Community Cookouts. Our thanks to Danny Kelley, Doug Dill and Will Hatcher for grilling the first three cookouts. The group agreed to purchase the fried chicken for the final cookout.

Bill Simpson informed the group on the initial planning for the Live Nativity Scene has begun. Bill discussed a few changes for the coming year. Our group will assist Steve White's crew with the assembly of the scene and contract for the animals.

Our thanks to Sheila, assisted by Naomi Barker and Betty Boley, for another delicious breakfast.

The August meeting is scheduled for August 13th.



NOTES OF THANKS

Thank you for your generous gift. Your contribution is already at work empowering more than 10,000 children and families across our community and the state to reach their full potential.

Thank you for being a partner in this journey. Together, we are building a stronger future and creating an environment where every child and family in our community has the opportunity to flourish.

~Jud Cihfield, Director of Advancement,
Child Development Resources

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Proclaiming Grace Outreach, we thank you for your recent donation for our building fund.

We are most grateful for your support. It is through donors like you that we can continue working hard to meet the ever-increasing needs of the residents of New Kent and James City Counties.

~Melanie King, Executive Director
PGOVA.org

Thank you for the very generous donation you gave to the Christian Church in Virginia for our Help Build Hope home build on our 4th annual multi-generational mission trip.

I also want to express our deep gratitude for the leadership and work of Abby Matschke, Perry Yeatts and Jeremy Dill; they did so much and made the trip so enjoyable.

~Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster, Mission Trip Leader
Christian Church in Virginia (Disciples of Christ)

Thank you for allowing James City Cavalry Camp 2095 to use the church fellowship hall. We are grateful to Steve White for thinking about this option and thank Olive Branch for the support. May God continue to bless you and the church family for your faithful service.

~Jonathan Holland, Treasurer,
James City Cavalry #2095

Thank you so much for your recent food pantry donation. Your support goes a long way in helping us continue to supply food to those in need. We are so grateful that you choose us time after time. It is such a blessing!

With partners like you, we will continue to help the less fortunate. Be blessed!

~Lisa Bishop, Assistant Director
St. Olaf Food Pantry



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

The CHM General Nurse Midwife students recently teamed up for a little friendly nutrition competitions to demonstrate what they've learned. I love their outfits; how about you?



WELCOME
Home

WELCOME HOME

We are excited to share that our dear friend, Susan Shipley will be visiting from out of town during the week of August 8–16!

Susan would love the opportunity to reconnect with her church family and catch up with friends while she is here. If you have a chance, please take a few moments to visit with her, share a conversation, and let her know how much she is missed.

INFORMATION NEEDED



Your help is needed and greatly appreciated! We are currently updating our church records to ensure that everyone's information is accurate and complete.

As I prepare the church newsletter each month, I want to make sure that no one is left out when recognizing birthdays and wedding anniversaries. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or if you're not sure we have the correct information on file, please take a moment to contact the church office.

You can email me or give me a call with your birthday and anniversary information so we can update our records. Your assistance will help us celebrate each member of our church family throughout the year. Thanks for your help!

~Tanya Weyland



DWM COVERED DISH DINNER AND MISSION OUTREACH

Mark your calendars for our next DWM Covered Dish Dinner on Monday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. in Branch Hall! We look forward to an evening of delicious food, warm fellowship, and learning about an inspiring local ministry.

This month, we are partnering with Proclaiming Grace Outreach, whose mission is to serve individuals and families experiencing economic hardship in Upper James City County and New Kent County. Through a holistic approach, they help bridge the gap between services available in Williamsburg and Richmond while sharing the love and compassion of Jesus Christ with every person they serve.

From now through September 14, we invite you to help support this ministry by donating any of the following non-perishable food items:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| -Cereal | -Chicken Noodle Soup |
| -Instant Potatoes | -Tomato Soup |
| -Peanut Butter | -Corn |
| -Macaroni & Cheese | -Mixed Vegetables |
| -Jelly | -Canned Vegetables |
| -Canned Fruit | -Cornbread Mix |
| -Canned Meats | -Microwave Popcorn |
| -Applesauce | -Stuffing Mix |
| -Brownie Mix | -Cornbread Mix |
| -Pasta | -Rice |
| -Jell-O | -Pudding |

Donations can be brought to the church and placed on the stage, downstairs in Branch Hall. Every donation, no matter the size, will help bless local families in need. Thank you for your generosity and for being the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

On September 14th, we are honored to welcome Melanie King, Executive Director of Proclaiming Grace Outreach, who will share more about the ministry's mission and the impact it is making in the lives of our neighbors. We hope you'll join us for this special evening of fellowship, food, and encouragement!



Do you recognize this cute couple?! Let's hear your guesses to see who is right!



God is Love

X	S	G	M	E	R	C	Y	J	K
E	A	L	D	W	I	S	D	O	M
F	L	P	O	J	F	H	I	T	V
O	V	A	O	V	H	E	J	E	G
R	A	T	V	Q	E	A	W	A	R
G	T	I	R	D	A	L	E	C	A
I	I	E	F	A	I	T	H	H	C
V	O	N	Y	M	P	A	L	E	E
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Q	Q	E	K	K	G	U	I	D	E

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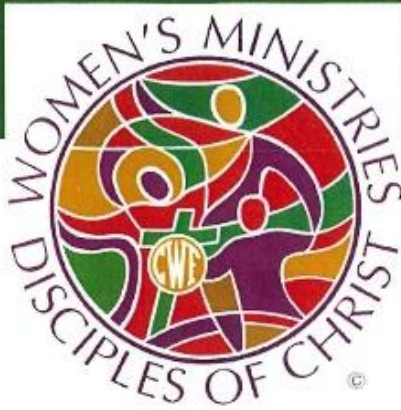
FAITH
FORGIVE
GRACE
GUIDE
HEAL
LOVE
MERCY
PATIENCE
SALVATION
TEACHER
TRUST
WISDOM



Summer Prayer

Heavenly Father,
As we embrace the
warmth and light of this
summer season, we thank
You for the beauty of
creation and the joy of
sunny days. Please guide
us in using this time for
rest. Protect us in our
travels and activities, and
let this summer be a
season of renewal and
deep joy in Your presence.

**Virginia
Disciples
Women
Regional Retreat**



**September
18 - 20,
2026**

"Sprouting Our Faith"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erin Reibel

"For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as the garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations"

Isaiah 61:11 ESV

Dr. Reibel is a dynamic, thoughtful and inspirational speaker who has served in multiple church settings.

The VDWM Retreat means fellowship with old and new friends, learning and growing our faith through worship and study, and having fun together. Bedrooms are single to triple, twin or full beds, with a private bathroom.

The retreat is Friday dinner through Sunday morning worship.

LOCATION:

W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center
at Smith Mountain Lake, Wirtz, VA

Registration opens May 1st, 2026 and closes Aug. 15, 2026



Please see registration form for cost details.

To register, use the QR code or link below:

<https://bit.ly/48hO3Pe>



Questions? Email ccinvaoffice@gmail.com or call the
Regional Office 434-846-3400

RAINFOREST Falls

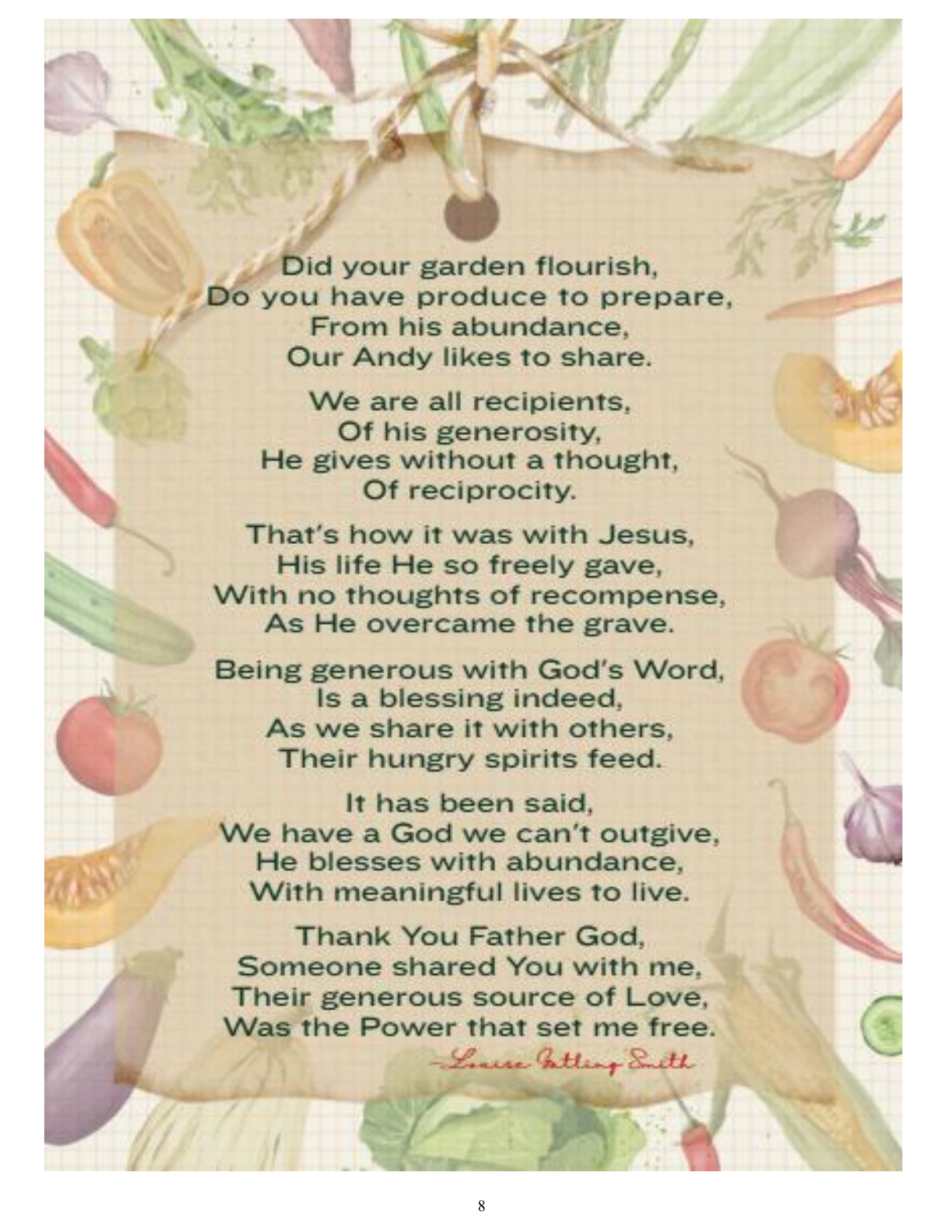
VBS 2026

Both children and adults embarked on a wild, creature-filled adventure at Rainforest Falls. We focused on knowing that God is our creator, He is all-knowing, our refuge and love forever.



VBS was a success this year. As you know we are only as good as those that come together to help out. We fed 453 people by Thursday and had a big crowd on the final night. Twenty-five kids were able to learn about Jesus and His love for us. The adult class is our most popular class with Pastor Richard teaching them nightly. I want to thank everyone that helped with prepping, decorating, teaching, guiding, donating time, food and money, and participating.





Did your garden flourish,
Do you have produce to prepare,
From his abundance,
Our Andy likes to share.

We are all recipients,
Of his generosity,
He gives without a thought,
Of reciprocity.

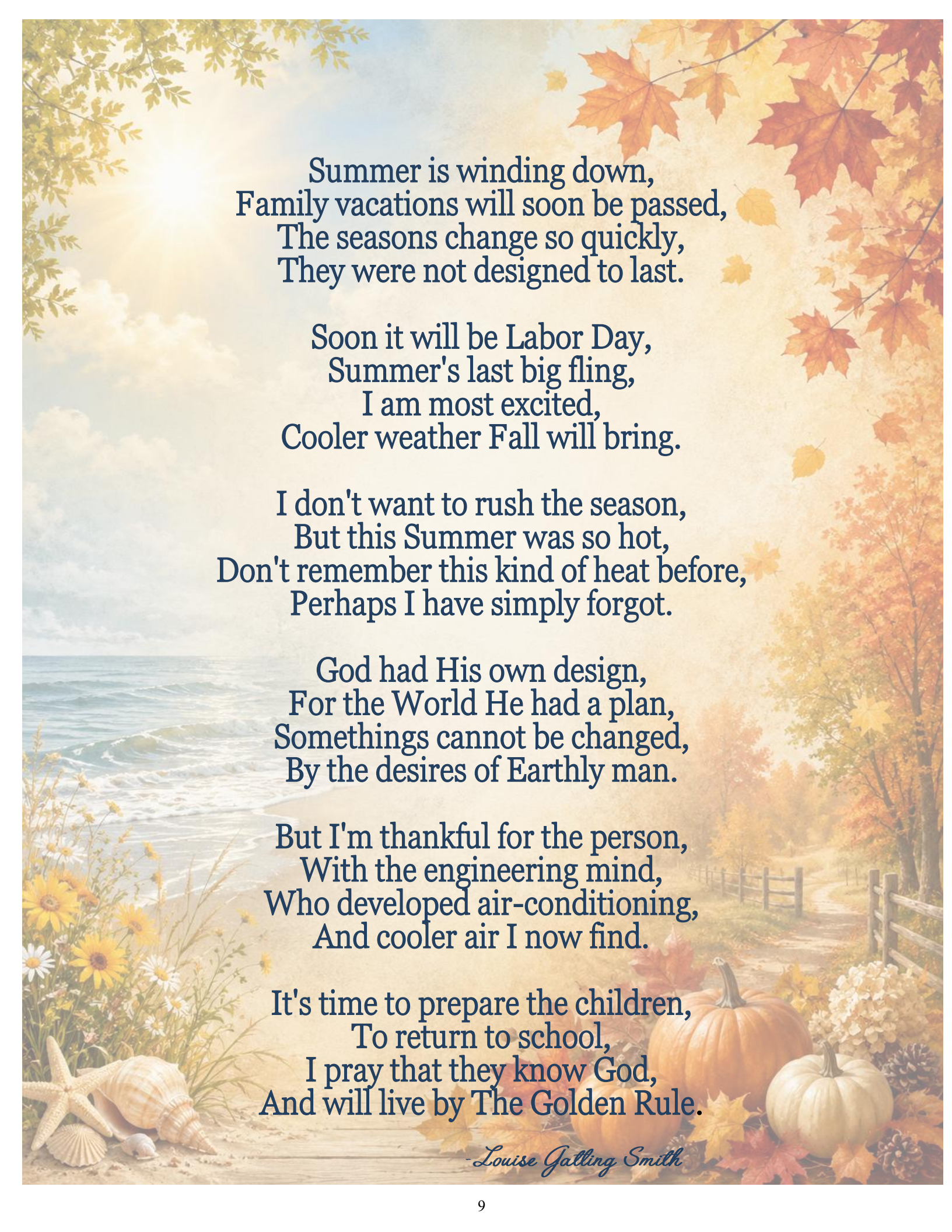
That's how it was with Jesus,
His life He so freely gave,
With no thoughts of recompense,
As He overcame the grave.

Being generous with God's Word,
Is a blessing indeed,
As we share it with others,
Their hungry spirits feed.

It has been said,
We have a God we can't outgive,
He blesses with abundance,
With meaningful lives to live.

Thank You Father God,
Someone shared You with me,
Their generous source of Love,
Was the Power that set me free.

-Louise Gitting Smith



Summer is winding down,
Family vacations will soon be passed,
The seasons change so quickly,
They were not designed to last.

Soon it will be Labor Day,
Summer's last big fling,
I am most excited,
Cooler weather Fall will bring.

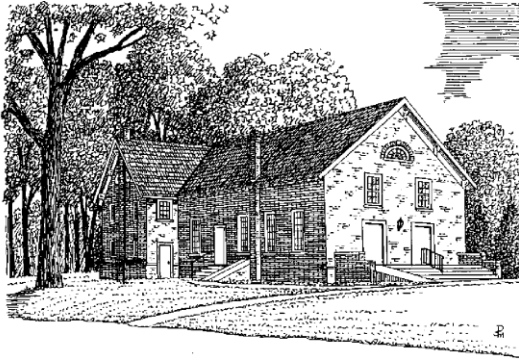
I don't want to rush the season,
But this Summer was so hot,
Don't remember this kind of heat before,
Perhaps I have simply forgot.

God had His own design,
For the World He had a plan,
Somethings cannot be changed,
By the desires of Earthly man.

But I'm thankful for the person,
With the engineering mind,
Who developed air-conditioning,
And cooler air I now find.

It's time to prepare the children,
To return to school,
I pray that they know God,
And will live by The Golden Rule.

- Louise Gatliff Smith



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*Note: No longer wish to receive our
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Please contact the church office.*

